



EXPRESS MAIL NO.: EH783419525US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Bruford et al Group Art Unit: To be assigned
Serial No.: 10/604,075 Examiner: To be assigned
Filed: 06/25/2003 Attorney Docket No.: 203-0125
For: AUTOMOTIVE TAILGATE WITH LIFT ASSIST SYSTEM - I

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:

1a. ☒ A list of all patents, publications, applications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office.

1b. A legible copy of:

☒ Each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent;

☐ Each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed on the PTO-1449;

☐ For each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application, or portion of the application which caused it to be listed on the PTO-1449 including any claims directed to that portion;

☐ All other information or that portion which caused it to be listed on the PTO-1449.

1c. ☐ An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or PCT International Search Report.

- 1d. ☐ Explanations of relevancy (ATTACHMENT 1(d), hereto) or English language abstracts of the non-English language publications.
2. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b):
- ☒ Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);
- ☐ Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application;
- ☐ Before the mailing of the first Office action on the merits;
- ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114.
3. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), but before the mailing date of any of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

(Check either Item 3a or 3b)

- 3a. ☐ The Certification Statement in Item 5 below is applicable. Accordingly, no fee is required.
- 3b. ☐ The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) is:
- ☐ enclosed
- ☐ to be charged to Ford Global Technologies LLC Deposit Account No. 06-1510.

(Item 3b to be checked if any reference known for more than 3 months)

4. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d) after the period specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), but on or before the date of payment of the issue fee.

The \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) is:

- ☐ enclosed.
- ☐ to be charged to Ford Global Technologies LLC Deposit Account No. 16-1510.

The Certification Statement in Item 5 below is applicable.

5. ☐ Certification Statement (*applicable if Item 3a or Item 4 is checked*)

(*Check either Item 5a or 5b*)

5a. ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1), it is certified that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Informational Disclosure Statement.

5b. ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(2), it is certified that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

6. ☐ This application is a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) or (d).

(*Check appropriate Items 6a, 6b and/or 6c*)

6a. ☐ A Petition to Withdraw from issue under 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5) is concurrently filed herewith.

6b. ☐ Copies of publications listed on Form PTO-1449 from prior application Serial No. _____, filed on _____, of which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120, are not being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).

6c. ☐ Copies of the publications listed on Form PTO-1449 were not previously cited in prior application Serial No. _____, filed on _____, and are provided herewith.

7. ☐ This is a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. (*Check either Item 7a or 7b*).

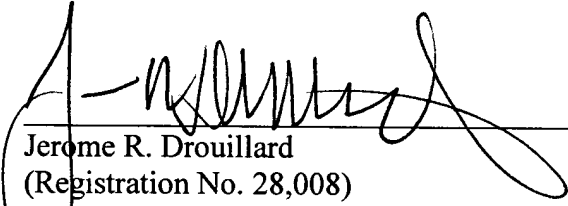
7a. ☐ This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(f) supplements the Information Disclosure Statement filed on _____. A bona fide attempt was made to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, but inadvertent omissions were made. These omissions have been corrected herein. Accordingly, additional time is requested so that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement can be considered as if properly filed on _____.

- 7b. ☐ This Supplemental Informational Disclosure Statement is timely filed within one (1) month of a PTO Notice under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(i).
8. ☐ In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:

(Check Item 8a, 8b or 8c)

- 8a. ☐ satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT Internal Search Report or the search report from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevant found by the foreign office.
- 8b. ☐ set forth in the application.
- 8c. ☐ enclosed as an attachment hereto.
9. ☒ The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee required or credit any overpayment for this Information Disclosure Statement and/or Petition to Ford Global Technologies LLC Deposit Account No. 16-1510.
10. ☒ No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability.

Respectfully submitted,


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Dated : July 11, 2003

Enclosure



LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY. DOCKET NO. 203-0125		SERIAL NO. 10/604,075	
				APPLICANTS Bruford et al			
				FILING DATE 06/25/2003		GROUP To be assigned	
U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	1.	2,984,517	05/16/1961	Farrow et al.			
	2.	3,031,225	04/24/1962	Saffer et al			
	3.	3,336,070	08/15/1967	Jackson			
	4.	4,143,904	03/13/1979	Cooper et al	296		
	5.	5,358,301	10/25/1994	Konchan et al	296		
	6.	5,988,724	11/23/1999	Wolda	296		
	7.						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION Yes No
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
	AO						
OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	AU						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							